

[Translation]

Export of Floricultural Products

*337. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is great potentiality of exporting floricultural products from the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of floriculture; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Exports of floricultural products during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(i) Cut Flowers Fresh	99.64	299.81	1013.83
(ii) Other Cut Flowers and Flower Buds.	1092.12	1957.80	3411.38

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

State-wise data of exports is not maintained. No study has been conducted by this Ministry to assess the potential of exports of floricultural products exclusively from the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floricultural products, inter-alia, include :

1. Providing Financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;
2. Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages at airports (including Delhi) for export consignments awaiting clearance;
3. Setting up of a dedicated facility for handling export cargos of perishable products including cut flowers and tissue culture plants at international airport at Delhi;
4. Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;
5. Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;
6. Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the 100% Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

7. Implementation of a UNDP-assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys in international fairs/exhibitions.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Economic Cooperation with Thailand

*338. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish economic cooperation with Thailand;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Thailand economic cooperation is proposed to be established;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India and Thailand are co-operating extensively in trade, investment, industrial and other economic areas.

(c) and (d) A Bilateral Trade Agreement, an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and an Air Services Agreement are amongst the bilateral agreements that have been signed officially between the two sides.

Export of Tobacco

*339. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tobacco exported during 1995-96;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof country-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase its export during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The total quantity and value of Tobacco exported during 1995-96 is as under :

Tobacco	Qty. (tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
Unmanufactured	61517	297.31
Manufactured	9913	68.50
Total	71430	365.81